

## 7-THE RESPONSIBLE KING



Once upon a time, there was a king who lived in a palace on the banks of a river. He was unhappy because the people of his kingdom were irresponsible. Everytime he went out in his chariot, he used to see stones and rubbish lying on the roads. Every time he sailed in his boat, he found the river very dirty.

"Alas! Why are my people so irresponsible?" he moaned.

"Why do they not keep the roads clean?", he thought for a while and said, "I must teach them a lesson." One night, he took a bag of gold coins with him and went to the main road. His vizier was also with him. He saw a pit in the middle of the road. He put the gold coins in it. Then the king and the vizier covered the pit with a big stone.

Next day, a man came along the road in his cart which was full of coal. He saw the big stone in the middle of the road but he was not worried about it. He drove his cart round the stone. Then another man came along with a flock of sheep and goats. The man did not

pay attention to it and drove his flock round the other side of the stone.

Many other people also passed along the same road. But all of them were so irresponsible that they did not bother to remove the stone. Finally, the king called all the people of his kingdom and said, "Come, let's remove the stone from the road." People were stunned to see the gold coins in the pit when they rolled the stone away.

"Look, there were gold coins under the stone but no one bothered to remove the stone. So no one deserves these gold coins. Had you been responsible and removed the stone, the gold coins would have been yours," the king said to his people.

The king ordered his vizier, "Take the gold coins to my palace." After hearing this the people felt ashamed and sorry too.

## ***New Words***

Word    Pronunciation    Meaning

irresponsible - इरि'स्पॉन्सब्ल् - गैर जिम्मेदार

chariot - चैरिअट् - रथ

moaned - मोन्ड् - आह भरी

vizier - वाइज़अ(र) - वज़ीर

cart - कार्ट् - लकड़ी की गाड़ी

bother - बॉदअ(र) - चिंतित

flock - फ़्लॉक् - झण्ड

stunned - स्टन्ड - चकित हुआ

deserves - डिज़अ(र्)वज़ - योग्य होना

ashamed - अशेम्ड - शर्मिन्दा हुआ

## ***Comprehension Questions***

1. Answer the following questions:

- a. Why was the king unhappy?
- b. What did the king see every time he went out in his chariot?
- c. Where did he put the gold coins?
- d. Who covered the pit with a big stone?
- e. Why did the people not remove the stone from the road?
- f. What lesson did the king want to teach his people?

**2. Write True or False for the given statements:**

- a. The king lived in a palace. ( )
- b. His people were responsible. ( )
- c. The king wanted to teach a lesson to the people. ( )
- d. The people removed the stone from the middle of the road. ( )

f. The king gave the gold coins to the people. ( )

g. People felt ashamed and sorry. ( )

## **Word Power**

1. **Learn the following names for groups of animals:**



<b>Animals</b>	<b>Group Names</b>
i. sheep/birds	flock
ii. bees	swarm
iii. ants/rabbits	colony
iv. elephants	herd
v. lions	pride
vi. fish	school
vii. dogs	pack

## **Language Practice**

1. **Make sentences using the table:**

The	first	day of the week	is	Sunday.
	second			Monday.
	last	month of the year		Saturday.
				January.
				February.
				December.

## ***Activity***

***» Some moral values are given below. Who, do you think, among your friends and family members possess these values?***

- a. honesty
- b. punctuality
- c. kindness
- d. generosity